

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT A 00964 172327Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----172331Z 095374 /62
R 171901Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4356

S E C R E T PORT AU PRINCE 0964

NODIS

EO 11652 XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, HA, US
SUBJECT: PLANS TO OVERTHROW DUVALIER GOVERNMENT

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0930 (EXDIS)

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HAS BEEN TOLD BY SOURCE WE CONSIDER RELIABLE, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS OVER-CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS, THAT PLANS ARE WELL-ADVANCED FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF HAITI. SOURCE SAID GOH KNOWS A "COUP" IS PLANNED BUT THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW WHEN IT WILL COME OR FROM WHERE. SOURCE TOLD US MOVE WOULD COME NO LATER THAN APRIL 21 -- SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER'S ACCESSION TO POWER.

2. SOURCE WOULD NOT REVEAL NAMES, AT THIS TIME, OF THOSE PLANNING COUP BUT SAID MANY MEMBERS OF SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT ALREADY IDENTIFIED. PLANNERS CLAIM SUPPORT WITHIN HAITIAN MILITARY AS WELL AS CONTACTS WITH EXILE GROUPS IN U.S. THEY SEE PRESENT ELECTRICITY CRISIS, GROWING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND INEPT GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AS FACILITATING THEIR PLANS. PLANS ARE SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED SO THAT THREE POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES (NAMES NOT DISCLOSED) HAVE COME FORWARD, BUT HOW FINAL CHOICE WILL BE MADE IS UNCLEAR. ORIENTATION OF PLANNERS APPEARS TO BE LIBERAL, PROGRESSIVE, AND PRO-U.S.; "COMMUNISTS" ARE TO BE RIGOROUSLY EXCLUDED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PORT A 00964 172327Z

AND "MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHAOTIC SITUATION."

3. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT "OUR PEOPLE IN NEW YORK" HAD RECEIVED USG ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE BETRAYED TO GOH AND THAT USG WOULD "LOOK THE OTHER WAY" WHEN THEY WERE READY TO MOVE. PRESIDENT CARTER IS CREDITED WITH

THIS CHANGE OF POLICY FROM PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS WHICH, SOURCE CHARGED, CONSISTENTLY INFORMED DUVALIERS OF OPPOSITION THREATS. PRINCIPAL WORRY OF PLANNERS IS THAT ONE OF THEIR ARMED FORCES CONTACTS MIGHT BETRAY THEM.

4. COMMENT: ATTEMPTS AND PLANS TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME OF THE DUVALIERS HAVE BEEN LEGION AND MOST HAVE HAD LITTLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS. THE SUCCESS OF THESE CURRENT PLANS WILL DEPEND ON SUPPORT OF THE KEY MILITARY LEADERS, A FACTOR ABOUT WHICH WE KNOW LITTLE. THE MOST EFFECTIVE BLACK OFFICERS, HOWEVER, HAVE APPEARED UNSHAKABLE IN THEIR LOYALTY TO DUVALIER AND TO THE DUVALIERIST SYSTEM, AND WE CAN IDENTIFY FEW, IF ANY, WHO WOULD BE LIKELY TO JOIN A COUP WHICH HAD A SIGNIFICANT MULATTO COMPONENT OR TIES WITH THE HAITIAN EXILES. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE OF ECONOMIC ADVERSITY AND POLITICAL MALAISE (REFTEL), THE TIMES ARE PROPITIOUS.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) THAT U.S. ADOPT A STRICT "HANDS OFF" POLICY TOWARD ANY ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF HAITI; (2) THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE US TO DRAFT CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE, FOR USE IN EVENT OF A SUCCESSFUL COUP, STRESSING OUR POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE, OUR CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF ALL THE HAITIAN PEOPLE, AND OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE ORDERLY ADMINISTRATION OF OUR AID PROGRAMS WHICH, LIKE THOSE OF REST OF INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY, ARE DESIGNED TO HELP THOSE SECTORS OF HAITIAN SOCIETY MOST IN NEED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PORT A 00964 172327Z

ISHAM

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTA00964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850056-1700, N770002-0097
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770349/aaaabqrq.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db117db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 PORT AU PRINCE 930
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3076710
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLANS TO OVERTHROW DUVALIER GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HA, US, (DUVALIER, JEAN-CLAUDE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db117db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009